

Message Text

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51

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

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R 151445Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6763

INFO USDOC

UNCLAS PRAGUE 1973

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, EAGR, CZ

SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF MAJOR OFFICE BUILDING IN PRAGUE

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS; COMMERCE FOR BEWT/MATHES

1. DURING NIGHT OF AUGUST 14-15, PRAGUE'S WORST FIRE OF YEAR COMPLETELY GUTTED "VELETRZNI PALAC" OFFICE BUILDING LOCATED AT DUKELSKYCH HRDINU 47, PRAGUE 7. ALTHOUGH THERE APPEAR HAVE BEEN NO CASUALTIES AMONG THE 3-4,000 WORKERS WHO ARE NORMALLY EMPLOYED IN THIS BUILDING, MATERIAL LOSSES ARE VERY HIGH.

2. BUILDING CONTAINED MAIN OFFICES OF KOVO, KOOSPOL, MOTOKOV, CENTROTEX, AND EXIMCO FOREIGN TRADE COMPANIES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE DEALINGS WITH AMERICAN PARTNERS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE DISRUPTION IN ACTIVITIES OF THESE FIRMS, AS THEY HAVE LOST ALL THEIR FILES AND RECORDS, AS WELL AS THEIR PHYSICAL OFFICE SPACE. EMBASSY PLANS TO WRITE DIRECTORS GENERAL OF AFFECTED FOREIGN TRADE COMPANIES TO EXPRESS REGRET AND OFFER ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING AMERICAN TRADE PARTNERS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF FILES AND ARCHIVES.

3. AS COMMERCE AWARE, KOVO FOREIGN TRADE COMPANY IS MAJOR CONTACT FOR UPCOMING BRNO ENGINEERING FAIR. DUSEX LOFAS HAS APPOINTMENT WITH KOVO REPRESENTATIVE AUGUST 19 TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS AND POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF FIRE.

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4. SUGGEST COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE MAY WISH CONTACT MAJOR

AMERICAN PARTNERS OF AFFECTED FOREIGN TRADE COMPANIES AND
EXPLAIN SITUATION.
PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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